



U.S. Department of Justice

Professional Responsibility Advisory Office

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 21, 2019

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
foia@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org

RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request PRAO-FOIA-18-024

Dear Mr. Evers:

I write on behalf of the Professional Responsibility Advisory Office (PRAO) to respond to your Freedom of Information Act request dated and received in this office on December 20, 2018. You request all records reflecting communications regarding any potential conflict of interest, recusal, or other ethics or professional responsibility consideration raised by Attorney General nominee William Barr's potential involvement in the ongoing investigation of Special Counsel Robert Mueller from November 1, 2018, through the date of the search.

Please be advised that PRAO conducted a search of its records and located two (2) documents responsive to your request. These records, totaling four (4) pages, are withheld in full pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA as intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process, attorney work product and attorney-client privileges. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Cordially,

Marguerite A. Driessen
Senior Legal Advisor, Chief FOIA Officer
Professional Responsibility Advisory Office